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Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues
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Special theme: Climate change, biocultural diversity and livelihoods: the stewardship role of indigenous peoples and new challenges"

Implementation of the recommendations on the six mandated areas of the Permanent Forum and on the Millennium Development Goals

Half-day discussion on indigenous languages

Ongoing priorities and themes and follow-up

Information received from the United Nations system and other intergovernmental organizations

Inter-American Development Bank

I. Introduction

1. In response to the request for information on activities implemented or planned by the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) and related to the recommendations made by the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues at its sixth session, as well as at previous sessions, IDB hereby provides a summary of its various activities that seek to promote sustainable development with identity and to safeguard the rights of the indigenous peoples of Latin America and the Caribbean in accordance with the mandate of its Operational Policy on Indigenous Peoples (OP-765), which has been in force since August 2006.

2. This information focuses on the different thematic areas identified by the Permanent Forum, which are related to the Bank's programmes for Latin America and the Caribbean on the issues of, inter alia, social, economic and cultural development, combating poverty and inequality, and the Millennium Development Goals. However, it should be noted that IDB has received few specific

* E/C.19/2008/1.

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recommendations from the Forum, perhaps because it is not one of the agencies of the United Nations system. Nevertheless, as an intergovernmental organization that is part of the inter-American system and a participant in inter-agency mechanisms such as the Inter-Agency Support Group on Indigenous Issues (IASG), it has always welcomed the recommendations made at the various sessions and has undertaken to implement them within the framework of its operations.

3. For the past two years, IDB has been conducting an internal realignment process that has involved a review of its management structure and decision-making mechanisms in order to respond more efficiently and promptly at the request of its region. This phase coincides with the implementation of new instruments that will lead to a qualitative improvement in the capacity and quality of the Bank's management on social and environmental issues, particularly those relating to indigenous peoples. These instruments are OP-765, the Strategy for Indigenous Development, the Environment and Safeguards Compliance Policy and the Strategy for promoting citizen participation in Bank activities.

II. Recommendations made exclusively to IDB with regard to one or more areas of the Forum's mandate (economic and social development, the environment, health, education, culture and human rights) and to the Millennium Development Goals

A. Recommendations made at the sixth session of the Permanent Forum

Health (paragraph 66, single recommendation)[1]

4. On this issue, the recommendation maintains that there is a direct link between birth registration for indigenous children and the allocation of funds for health and other social benefits. In that regard, the Bank recognizes that the indigenous population is one of the groups most affected by the lack of registration (in the case of newborns) and of civil documentation (in the case of adults) as a result of factors such as the absence of culturally appropriate birth registration programmes, cultural and linguistic differences, geographic location and discrimination, which result in greater exclusion and in the denial of fundamental rights. It should be noted that women are the members of the adult population who are most likely to be without identity documents, without which they are limited in the exercise of their rights; this includes economic activities such as opening a bank account, establishing a business, acquiring title to land, enrolling in schools, voting and getting married.

5. IDB has been addressing this issue for the past three years through various initiatives such as an international seminar, held in February 2006 and entitled "Rights from the Start: Identity, Registration and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean", at which case studies on identity and registration in Latin America and the Caribbean and their consequences for access to rights and social services, implementation of poverty reduction programmes in five Latin American countries and under-registration of births in Latin America were presented.

[1] *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2007, Supplement No. 23* (E/2007/43).

6. Following this event, IDB provided support to various countries through projects and technical cooperation designed to strengthen civil registry and documentation programmes and bodies. Inclusion of the issues of cultural and linguistic identity has been promoted in all these initiatives. In the specific case of the indigenous population, the Bank has supported a study on the impact of the ethnic and gender variables on the under-registration of citizens in Latin America; this study has been conducted during the past year and is almost complete.

7. These activities are the first steps towards broader support that will give rise to important concepts, methodologies, instruments and policies that will serve as lessons for the promotion of civil registry and documentation policies in Latin America and the Caribbean with a view to cultural relevance and to the effective participation of indigenous peoples.

Response to the recommendation contained in paragraph 19

8. The issue of respect for indigenous peoples' right to land and territories is a central element of OP-765. In that regard, although the Policy does not include the principle of consent, it does incorporate that of a good faith negotiation between the project proponent and the indigenous peoples as a condition for funding. In that connection, one of the requirements established in the Policy is that in the case of operations that "carry a high degree of risk to the physical, territorial or cultural integrity of the affected indigenous peoples or groups, the Bank will further require and verify that the project proponent demonstrate that it has, through a good faith negotiation process, obtained agreements regarding the operation and measures to address the adverse impacts as necessary to support, in the Bank's judgment, the sociocultural viability of the operation".

9. The process of informed, culturally appropriate consultation is one of the mechanisms for implementation of the Policy and, in particular, of this principle (good faith negotiation). The Bank has developed operational guidelines for this purpose.

10. One of the areas in which these measures have been often applied in the Bank's recent experience is that of large-scale infrastructure projects, primarily in the areas of road building, energy and natural resources. It should be noted that a strategic environmental assessment has been conducted for Bolivia's northern corridor, resulting in a plan of action with several components in which issues related to indigenous peoples are reflected in a specific, cross-cutting manner as a consequence of the approaches taken during three rounds of consultations. Consultation with indigenous peoples was carried out specifically and with prior coordination that ensured broad participation by the peoples and organizations of Bolivia's eastern and northern departments.

11. Another example of indigenous peoples' participation in the preparatory phase of a project and in management of its impact on society is provided by the process of prior consultation with and participation of the Pemon and Krenakore indigenous peoples in Venezuela's Caroní River basin, who were indirectly affected by construction of the Tocoma hydroelectric power plant. Prior evaluation and coordination with the indigenous peoples, including the Federation of Indigenous Peoples of the State of Bolivar, resulted in the indigenous peoples' proposal of the Caroní Basin sustainable management plan.

12. With regard to road infrastructure, the measures currently being implemented in connection with the Pasto-Mocoa road in Colombia should be noted. A participatory process involving local communities is under way as part of the environmental and social strategy; it includes communities of the Inga and Kamsá indigenous peoples located in the area affected by the road (the existing road). During this process, a sustainable development programme for the forest reserve area of the upper Mocoa River basin and its area of impact was developed. This participatory process, which is still ongoing, has provided the Bank with an experience rich in lessons that will be reflected in other operations.

13. The following lessons have been learned from this experience:

(a) The need for advance determination of the potential impact and the potentially affected persons and to take appropriate measures promptly;

(b) The need to address issues related to indigenous peoples specifically and in a differentiated, culturally appropriate manner;

(c) The need to develop a strategy for dialogue and informed consultation with the affected indigenous communities themselves;

(d) The need to prepare detailed terms of reference for activities, methodologies, procedures and approaches and, inter alia, to identify measures that may make an activity culturally relevant;

(e) The need to include specialists who are indigenous or have extensive experience with indigenous peoples;

(f) The need to monitor closely the activities that are conducted;

(g) The need to institutionalize participation in project implementation mechanisms (governing councils, advisory councils and modalities for community participation in the allocation of funds); and

(h) The need to ensure that the outcomes or issues have the consent of the affected persons as part of a culturally appropriate consultation process; in some cases, this involves additional measures such as use of the local language.

14. Despite these and other lessons, there are still challenges and issues that require further consideration, such as the appropriate use of local languages in consultation processes; the self-identification of communities (in some regions and countries, the definition of "indigenous people" varies and people generally avoid identifying themselves as indigenous); appropriate, inclusive identification and direct participation of local organizations and stakeholders; and the need to conduct more thorough socio-cultural diagnostic studies.

Response to the recommendation contained in paragraph 26

15. Since August 2006, as stated above, IDB has been implementing OP-765 and its complementary Strategy for Indigenous Development. Both documents were prepared through a broad process of consultation with the various sectors concerned (including, inter alia, indigenous peoples, governments, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), agencies and academics) and are based on international norms (prior to the Universal Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples) that protect the rights of indigenous peoples. The Policy applies to all operations and activities supported by the Bank's resources, including financial and non-financial

products. In that regard, with respect to the sovereign decisions of the governments of debtor countries, the Bank, under its own mandate and in its dialogue with governments, promotes, inter alia, respect for and protection of the rights of indigenous peoples, particularly those associated with their territories.

16. With regard to dialogue with governments and country strategies, the Bank is preparing technical notes on, inter alia, indigenous and Afro-descendant peoples. During the past year, it has made progress in preparation of the technical notes on Bolivia, Nicaragua, Suriname, Ecuador, Belize, Guyana, Guatemala and Peru.

Response to paragraph 45

17. The issue of the effective participation of indigenous peoples in specific projects, and in projects that focus on the indigenous population as beneficiaries, is included in one of the directives of OP-765 as part of a set of key guidelines for supporting development with identity. This means that a project must not only respond to a request from the indigenous peoples themselves; it must also ensure the participation of interested parties in the design and other phases of the project cycle as a key factor in its sustainability and success.

18. At present, increasing numbers of technical cooperation projects and loan operations are being implemented or planned with the direct participation of the beneficiary communities, including, for example:

(a) A project that supports the development of a network of aboriginal community sustainable tourism enterprises in Jujuy Province, Argentina, in cooperation with Warmi Sayajsunqo, an indigenous (Kolla) women's organization whose objective is to create and strengthen a network of sustainable aboriginal community enterprises that offer tourist services and products reflecting the ancestral identity of the indigenous peoples of the Puna region; its work helps the indigenous peoples improve their quality of life;

(b) The Orígenes II Project in Chile, which seeks to promote the integrated territorial development of communities in the rural Mapuche, Atacameño and Aymara region;

(c) Support for the competitive development of cultural tourism in the Mayan communities of Guatemala. This project's objective is to make the Mayan communities competitive in tourism areas so that they can benefit from the tourist activity. The goal is to increase the Mayan communities' capacity to develop, organize and market ethnic tourism products in a sustainable manner;

(d) A rural development project in Guatemala, currently in its initial phase, the purpose of which is to support the establishment of businesses by indigenous people and the development of production chains;

(e) The Sustainable Development Plan for Sierra Nevada de Santa Marta, Colombia; its objectives include the legal establishment of title to land, food security on the basis of a strengthened traditional economy, and support for organic coffee production among the Kogi people; and

(f) Support for the entrepreneurship and competitiveness of the indigenous peoples of Panama with a focus on support for women's initiatives and the protection of collective intellectual property.

19. Participation of and dialogue with the Rapa Nui concerning their special status in Chile.

20. Recent studies on good practices have focused on, inter alia, the following:

(a) Indigenous peoples' access to post-secondary vocational education (in Colombia, Guatemala, Nicaragua and Ecuador);

(b) Experience with good practices in the area of intercultural health;

(c) Good practices for indigenous enterprise development;

(d) Income from land in Bolivia; and

(e) Participation and political representation of indigenous women.

21. As stated above, because of their specific nature, these activities require close interaction with the indigenous peoples concerned and, above all, a high degree of participation, without which there would be no reason to develop or implement them. Indigenous specialists have participated in various studies and their knowledge has given added value to the results thereof.

Response to paragraph 145

22. The traditional knowledge and collective intellectual property of indigenous peoples are considered in the directives of OP-765; its primary objective is to protect them from potential harm. The Bank realizes that these assets have their basis in the territory and culture of indigenous peoples and is aware of the complexity of the types of protection required.

23. In that regard, no specific initiative on traditional knowledge of biodiversity has been developed, but initiatives on traditional knowledge with a view to territorial development and on the recovery of cultural heritage have been launched. The Bank has promoted the issue of biodiversity in some of its projects on patent law and intellectual property in various Latin American and Caribbean countries with the general rule that national legislation should recognize, and provide for the protection of, the traditional knowledge and collective intellectual property of indigenous peoples.

24. IDB has also incorporated this issue into projects that support indigenous communities' production of handicrafts and art, and into cultural tourism projects in which the need to protect sacred sites and cultural practices should be given priority, together with other concerns about traditional knowledge in the economic sphere. For example, one of the goals of the trinational programme, Aymaras without Borders, is to restore traditional trade through the Andean vertical exchange systems.

25. Concerning this recommendation, the Bank considers that specific contributions are needed with a view to the development of more relevant and effective mechanisms for the protection of traditional knowledge. Indigenous peoples' territory — the physical and symbolic space in which knowledge in the broadest sense of the word is generated and used — is one possible area for progress towards this goal. This traditional knowledge is part of the consensual practice and norms that govern the societies of indigenous peoples. In light of the importance of indigenous territories at the local and national levels, there is a need to work with indigenous peoples in conducting studies on territorial management, the cultural

uses thereof and resource management in order to ensure that they are recognized and incorporated into the policies, plans and programmes in areas such as land-use planning, resource management and protection of certain areas. To that end, the Bank has developed the cultural land use analysis (CLAN) methodology; it is already being applied, including in the Integrated Ecosystem Management in Indigenous and Community Lands in Central America programme.

B. Response to recommendations made during previous sessions of the Permanent Forum

Fifth session

26. At the fifth session, the only recommendation directed solely towards IDB concerned data collection and disaggregation (para. 165)[2], to be implemented in collaboration with the World Bank as follow-up to the work of the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) in disaggregating the human development index. The Bank is addressing that issue, as requested, through several initiatives related to censuses and household surveys. In Colombia, for example, technical cooperation is providing support for the compilation and improvement of census data on the indigenous and Afro-descendant population. In Paraguay, another technical cooperation project is being implemented in order to provide information on the living conditions of indigenous peoples while incorporating cultural and environmental variables. These initiatives make use of the Bank's Program for the Improvement of Surveys and the Measurement of Living Conditions in Latin America and the Caribbean (MECOVI).

Third session[3]

27. The recommendation in the area of economic and social development (para. 61) urges the Bank to design special programmes to support indigenous peoples' economic and social development. In that regard, the Bank is implementing various relevant projects, on, inter alia:

(a) The Integrated Development for Indigenous Peoples programme in Chile;

(b) Rural-driven development in Guatemala;

(c) Support for the establishment of community-based cultural tourism businesses in Argentina, Guatemala and Honduras;

(d) A comprehensive development programme for the indigenous peoples of Honduras;

(e) Support for indigenous mining operations in Cauca, Colombia; and

(f) A series of indigenous entrepreneurship projects in nine Latin American countries.

28. In paragraph 97, it is recommended that IDB should incorporate indigenous people's issues into the formulation of sector policies. As mentioned previously, the Bank has an Operational Policy on Indigenous Peoples (OP-765), a Strategy for

[2] *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2006, Supplement No. 23* (E/2006/43).
[3] *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2006, Supplement No. 23* (E/2006/43).

Indigenous Development and other instruments that incorporate indigenous peoples' issues, including, inter alia, the Environment and Safeguards Compliance Policy, a voluntary resettlement policy and the Strategy for promoting citizen participation in Bank activities.

III. Responses to recommendations addressed to two or more agencies under one or more items of the agenda of the Permanent Forum

A. Recommendations made at the sixth session of the Permanent Forum

Response to the recommendation contained in paragraph 12

29. IDB has not provided the support, recommended by the Permanent Forum, for the representation and participation of indigenous peoples at the sessions of the Commission on Sustainable Development, as the Bank's internal procedures for this type of assistance allow it to be provided only when an event is related to projects or activities financed or sponsored by IDB. Another constraint is the fact that IDB is not part of the United Nations system, which hampers its efforts to follow up on issues that are not directly related to its own programme and agenda.

Response to the recommendation contained in paragraph 14

30. In relation to the topic of climate change and related issues such as policies and funding for plantation and forestry projects and studies on good practices, the most relevant IDB activities are the following:

(a) There are two current policies (2006), as mentioned earlier: OP-765 and the Environment and Safeguards Compliance Policy. The two policies are complementary and ensure that the Bank's funding is available only for economically sustainable projects in the social, environmental and cultural sectors;

(b) In relation to plantations, the Bank is not currently financing large-scale plantation or monocrop projects. However, in accordance with the worldwide concern about the need for alternative energy sources, the Bank is supporting a large number of projects for biofuel sources, especially in Brazil and Mexico. In both cases, the funding is intended to improve the technological competitiveness of production, which is based on existing plantations that do not have an impact on indigenous areas, lands and territories;

(c) With regard to forestry projects, there are emerging initiatives in the context of, inter alia, the Integrated Development for Indigenous Peoples project in Chile (Phase II); the Food and Financial Self-support for Aché and Ava Guaraní Communities project and a project for expansion of the vegetable sponge by-products industry in Paraguay. There is also a technical cooperation project in support of the creation of fire brigades in specific Mebengokre (Kayapó) villages in Brazil with the main goal of creating and training brigades to combat forest fires in Kayapó communities; and

(d) The Bank does not yet have case studies of good practices in this area.

Response to the recommendation contained in paragraph 28

31. As explained in the response to the recommendation contained in paragraph 28, OP-765 sets clear mandates for safeguarding the ancestral lands and territories of indigenous peoples. This policy is being applied in a number of the Bank's activities, including the programming process and country strategies.

Response to the recommendations contained in paragraphs 39 to 41

32. The Bank has been monitoring this issue closely for the past four years. The most challenging area has been the provision of support for the Peruvian Government through the Camisea natural gas project. The project's area of influence includes communities of peoples in isolation and in initial contact.

33. In the context of this project, one of the most important measures adopted as part of the environmental and social strategy involved negotiation with the Peruvian Government in order to strengthen protection of the Nahua Kugapakori Nanti and similar reserves, as well as of communal reserves such as that of the Matsiguenga and Asháninka peoples; to achieve the enactment of legislation to protect peoples in isolation; and to prepare the protection plan for the Nahua Kugapakori Nanti and other reserves. On that basis, the Bank has followed up on the issue and, together with other interested organizations in the region (NGOs and indigenous peoples' organizations), has participated in events organized on the issue of the protection of indigenous peoples in isolation in the Amazon basin and the Chaco region. As a result, a study on standards for the protection of indigenous peoples in voluntary isolation (in the Amazon and Chaco regions) was carried out last year. As soon as it was completed, its results offered interesting challenges and opportunities for the protection of those peoples. The study has not yet been published.

Response to the recommendation contained in paragraph 69

34. OP-765 and the Strategy for Indigenous Development establish the role of IDB in promoting culturally relevant education and, in that context, supporting projects or project components involving bilingual and intercultural education, in addition to indigenous students' access to secondary and higher education. This IDB policy framework is consistent with the Forum's mandate and recommendations on education.

35. Recent IDB initiatives include the following:

(a) A technical training scholarship programme for indigenous and Afro-descendant students in the Andean region. Implementation has begun in Colombia, Peru, Bolivia and Ecuador with the objective of providing technical post-secondary training for at least 80 male and female students;

(b) The Diversity in the University initiative, under implementation in Brazil, which promotes ethnic inclusiveness;

(c) A study on the status of bilingual intercultural education in Latin America; and

(d) A study on indigenous peoples' access to vocational, technical and higher education in Latin America.

Response to the recommendation contained in paragraph 78

36. In relation to the adoption of the rights-based development approach recommended by the Permanent Forum, IDB includes in its OP-765 the concept of development with identity, understood as "a process that includes the strengthening of indigenous peoples, harmony with their environment, sound management of territories and natural resources, the generation and exercise of authority, and respect for indigenous rights ... in accordance with their own worldview and governance". This concept is applied through processes of informed consultation. Although, as previously mentioned, OP-765 does not include the concept of consent, the Bank is making use of prior and informed consultation processes in its activities and, on that basis, is negotiating good faith agreements with the indigenous peoples concerned.

Response to the recommendation contained in paragraph 107

37. One of the Bank's most important initiatives relating to urban indigenous peoples is being implemented in Chile, where Phase II of the Integrated Development for Indigenous Peoples project (for which the stakeholders are the rural Mapuche, Atacemeno and Aymara communities) included a study on urban indigenous peoples. Its results will be used as the basis for a new project, which is being discussed with the Government.

38. A smaller-scale initiative is the census of indigenous street vendors in Quito, Ecuador, which is being used in the preparation of an innovative project to build a shopping centre owned by the Jatun Ayllu Association of Indigenous Street Vendors. The street vendors will not move their street selling activities to the shopping centre; instead, the centre will be rented out and the rental income used to fund indigenous microenterprises that will provide them with an alternative to peddling their wares on the city's streets.

39. OP-765 includes provisions on urban indigenous peoples and immigrants in order to ensure that urban projects financed by IDB identify the indigenous population and include culturally relevant components and measures. In relation to international migration, IDB is implementing a number of projects designed to enhance the use of remittances; to date, however, no studies have focused specifically on the immigrant indigenous population.

Response to the recommendation contained in paragraph 123

40. With regard to the collection and disaggregation of data on indigenous peoples, the Bank has initiatives for social programmes in order to promote achievement of the Millennium Development Goals. These initiatives are specifically concerned with including cultural and environmental variables in databases and instruments used in poverty reduction activities. They also include approaches, methodologies and instruments that are culturally relevant and appropriate to the provision of services, primarily in the areas of health and education.

41. In terms of statistical instruments, IDB has the Measurement of Living Conditions in Latin America and the Caribbean (MECOVI) initiative, which seeks to help countries improve their quality-of-life surveys. In the context of MECOVI, one of the most recent initiatives is a survey of a thousand indigenous families in

Paraguay which includes questions on cultural and environmental factors and perceptions that play a major role in determining the conditions and quality of life. Representatives of indigenous peoples helped prepare the questions and conduct the survey.

42. The Bank is also supporting the census processes in every country of the region. Over the past few years, it has encouraged the inclusion of questions on ethnicity, culture and language and has supported censuses of indigenous peoples in Paraguay and Venezuela. In addition, the Bank (in coordination with the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC)) has supported sociodemographic analyses based on the most recent census data from Panama and Ecuador.

Response to the recommendation contained in paragraph 140

43. Although it is not part of the United Nations system, IDB has been participating in the work of the Inter-Agency Support Group on Indigenous Issues (IASG) and in the sessions of the Permanent Forum. It has also been collaborating with a number of organizations, including the World Bank, the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO), the International Labour Organization (ILO) and the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD). IDB will continue to participate in those forums in the knowledge that it will be strengthening cooperation and activities in support of the rights of indigenous peoples in the region.

Response to the recommendation contained in paragraph 151

44. Specific IDB initiatives involving indigenous peoples that live in areas extending over more than one national territory include the following:

(a) The Meso-American Biological Corridor, an initiative to support the integrated management of indigenous people's territories in the Meso-American region;

(b) The initiative entitled, "Conservation of the Natural Resource Endowment of the Great Chaco", an area which extends into Paraguay, Bolivia and Argentina, through a management and conservation strategy based on the systems and knowledge of the region's indigenous peoples;

(c) An initiative on standards for the protection of indigenous peoples in voluntary isolation in the Amazon and Chaco regions (the study has just been completed); and

(d) An initiative on the Aymara cultural and natural heritage that involves Aymara municipalities and communities in Chile and Bolivia; it aims to prepare a strategic plan on borders, production in public-private partnerships (camelids, quinoa, mining services companies, energy and irrigation), tourism and a return to traditional trade (networks, terraced fields and exchange).

45. These initiatives fall within the mandates of OP-765, which establishes, inter alia, the need for programmes on the legal security, territorial control, health, freedom of movement and economic, social and cultural integration of these peoples.

C. Recommendations made at previous sessions of the Permanent Forum

Fifth session

46. At its fifth session, the Permanent Forum called for the coordination of work between itself and the Inter-Agency Support Group on Indigenous Issues (IASG). In relation to that recommendation, IDB has been participating in a number of IASG activities and in the sessions of the Permanent Forum, at which it has had the opportunity to hold meetings with members of the Permanent Forum. In coordination with the World Bank, ILO and IFAD, it has also participated in discussions on issues relating to, inter alia, economic, social and cultural development and data collection and disaggregation.

47. Another recommendation made at the fifth session relates to inclusion of the principles of self-determination and free, prior and informed consent. OP-765 does not specifically include those concepts, but it establishes culturally appropriate informed consultation and good faith negotiation with the indigenous peoples concerned as fundamental mechanisms for its operations. It also includes the concept of indigenous governance, which recognizes, inter alia, the right of indigenous peoples to control their own economic, social and cultural development and the internal management of their lands and territories.

48. At the same session, in the area of human rights, the Forum recommended the adoption of specific measures for the protection of indigenous peoples in voluntary isolation (para. 83). In that connection, the Bank, in accordance with the mandate of its policy on respect for the right of those peoples to live in that way, has carried out a regional study to evaluate their situation and the administrative mechanisms for protection of their rights that are being applied in the Amazon basin and the Chaco region. The results of the study will be disseminated in the near future.

IV. Responses to issues

A. Indigenous children and youth

49. In relation to indigenous children and youth, the Bank has considered social initiatives such as:

(a) Education: projects for educational reform and improvement of educational coverage and quality. For example, in Ecuador, the national education plan supported by the Bank includes indigenous education with an intercultural and bilingual focus; and

(b) Health and nutrition: a study of the views of indigenous communities on child undernutrition and nutrition programmes in Central American countries, conducted jointly with the World Food Programme (WFP). Another study, which is close to completion, focuses on tools to reduce maternal and child mortality among indigenous women in Latin America. More specifically, a project in the Sierra Nevada de Santa Marta region aims to combat undernutrition by returning to the use of traditional plants and production systems. In this area, IDB is collaborating with a European Union project.

B. Indigenous women

50. Indigenous women are involved in various IDB initiatives, including the following:

(a) The Programme for the Support of Women's Leadership and Representation (PROLEAD). Priority is given to strengthening the civic and political participation of indigenous women. PROLEAD has allocated about US$ 1 million to projects designed to increase the leadership, communication and advocacy skills of indigenous women in Latin America. The Programme also supported the first Indigenous Women's Summit of the Americas, held in Mexico in 2002;

(b) The establishment of an External Advisory Council on Women in Development, which includes a woman representative of indigenous peoples;

(c) Support for business initiatives by the indigenous peoples of Panama, with special emphasis on women entrepreneurs;

(d) Design of tools to reduce maternal mortality among indigenous women in Latin America;

(e) Support for the project to create a network of aboriginal community sustainable tourism enterprises in Jujuy province, Argentina, in cooperation with the Kolla women's organization, "Warmi Sayajsunqo";

(f) Support for Pro Mujer Peru through recognition of its excellence in microfinance. Pro Mujer is a network devoted to microfinance and development initiatives (business training and health support) for low-income women; it has established five microfinance institutions in Argentina, Bolivia, Mexico, Nicaragua and Peru, and many of the beneficiaries are indigenous women; and

(g) A scholarship programme that funds post-secondary technical training for indigenous and Afro-descendant students in Colombia, Bolivia, Ecuador and Peru, in which 50 per cent of the participants are women.

C. Data collection and disaggregation

51. IDB is encouraging the inclusion of questions on ethnicity and culture in household surveys and censuses. In recent years, it has provided support for censuses and submission of specific information on the indigenous population, with a special effort to promote the issues of ethnic self-identification and the linguistic variable. For example, in Paraguay and Venezuela, the Bank has supported the holding of specific censuses of indigenous peoples. In Panama and Ecuador, sociodemographic analyses of indigenous peoples were carried out on the basis of census data in collaboration with ECLAC.

52. In addition, since 2005, the Bank has been supporting the use of data collection and disaggregation instruments in a number of its operations, such as social protection and poverty reduction programmes (including conditional transfer programmes) and the mainstreaming of ethnicity and gender variables in Argentina, Panama and Nicaragua. In addition to these activities, the Bank has supported three records modernization projects (civil registry and documentation) in Uruguay, Honduras and Brazil (under implementation) which promote, inter alia, the inclusion of ethnicity and gender variables.

53. Other activities include a number of regional and national studies (Ecuador, Guatemala, Bolivia, Colombia and Argentina) designed to evaluate the results of the management of ethnicity, race and gender variables, obstacles, and challenges in statistics systems and institutions. Lastly, technical cooperation is being provided in Paraguay in order to measure the living conditions of indigenous peoples by including cultural, environmental and economic variables in survey questions and thereby to record indigenous people's perceptions of well-being.

54. Despite the above initiatives, however, the Bank considers that there are still significant challenges to be met in the development of specific instruments and methodologies for the collection and disaggregation of data on indigenous peoples of the region.

D. Free, prior and informed consent

55. The Bank has not included this concept in OP-765 (see the response to the recommendation contained in para. 19), but it has included the equivalent — good faith negotiation — for special cases (proactive projects and projects with significant impact).

E. Millennium Development Goals

56. In this connection, the Bank's main mandates include poverty reduction and ensuring sustainable growth in the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean. This mandate is fully consistent with the Millennium Development Goals and with the additional goals of social inclusion and the promotion of equity in Bank operations. Both OP-765 and the Strategy for Indigenous Development are consistent with the themes of the Goals. On the basis of those mandates and instruments, IDB has been promoting efforts to achieve the Goals in its social-sector activities (especially in social protection, education and health projects). Specifically in relation to indigenous peoples, the Bank considers that the Millennium Development Goals may not be met by those peoples unless the programmes and activities are culturally relevant. It has therefore carried out several studies in order to assess and identify obstacles and challenges to meeting the Goals. The most significant of these are:

(a) Considerations of Race and Ethnicity in the Millennium Development Goals: the Case of Honduras; and

(b) The Millennium Development Goals and the ethnic gap in Peru (in Spanish).

57. Measures being adopted in relation to a key area related to the Goals include data collection and disaggregation, especially in the household surveys. One of the first specific initiatives of this kind involved conducting a quality-of-life survey of the indigenous peoples of Paraguay.

F. Human rights

58. IDB has a complete, up-to-date database of existing legislation on indigenous peoples and their rights in the Latin American and Caribbean countries. This

database, which is updated periodically, is a unique source of information and works on indigenous peoples' rights and is available to all interested parties, both within and outside the Bank. In addition, IDB is providing design support for a system to monitor the enforcement of indigenous legislation in countries with special normative frameworks.

V. Obstacles to implementation of the Permanent Forum's recommendations to IDB

59. For IDB, the greatest obstacle to implementation of the Permanent Forum's recommendations is perhaps a factor related to the Bank's agenda and institutional specialization: some of the recommendations, while extremely important, cannot be implemented because they do not correspond to the Bank's area of action and specialization. Opportunities for providing follow-up in coordination with other institutions are therefore limited. Nevertheless, many of the recommendations, as explained above, are consistent with the Bank's policies and programming.

VI. Factors facilitating IDB implementation of the Permanent Forum's recommendations

60. The following are among the most relevant factors:

(a) Having a specific policy and a body (or focal point) with specific functions and mandates concerning indigenous peoples;

(b) Having offices in each of its Latin American and Caribbean member countries; this facilitates a direct relationship with countries and social partners;

(c) Having Governments' and the Bank's commitment to meet the Millennium Development Goals;

(d) Having specialist staff; and

(e) Being a member of the Inter-Agency Support Group on Indigenous Issues within the framework of the Permanent Forum.

VII. IDB policies and instruments on indigenous peoples

61. The Bank has had a specific Operational Policy on Indigenous Peoples (OP-765) and Strategy for Indigenous Development since August 2006. It also has a Strategy for promoting citizen participation in Bank activities, which establishes guidelines for indigenous peoples' participation based on culturally appropriate measures. Furthermore, although the Operational Policy on Involuntary Resettlement (OP-710) is not a specific tool for indigenous populations, it establishes that free, prior and informed consent is required in cases where an indigenous population will be affected.

62. Other noteworthy tools and mechanisms are:

(a) The Diversity Internship Programme, held twice each year, whereby 10 indigenous and Afro-descendant students participate in two- to three-month internships at the Bank's headquarters; and

(b) The Diversity Junior Professional Programme, whereby two students (of whom one is indigenous and the other Afro-descendant) are recruited annually to work for two years at the Bank's headquarters. The expansion of this programme to include a greater number of junior professionals is currently under consideration.

63. It is also important to mention that the Bank's country offices in Latin America and the Caribbean have Civil Society Advisory Councils (CASC), several of which include representatives of indigenous peoples. In order to strengthen the Council's role, the Bank is carrying out a programme that focuses specifically on the participation of civil society in its activities.

VIII. Additional information on specific activities and projects included in the budget for 2007

64. The projects listed below are those which were implemented in 2007 and focus specifically on indigenous peoples as beneficiaries. Other operations which have indigenous components or were approved in previous years and are currently under implementation are not included:

Indigenous Peoples Tourist Route in Argentina: Tourism with Identity

Preparation of a Small-Scale Indigenous Mining Corridor Project

Empowerment, Protection, and Support for Indigenous Entrepreneurs in Panama

Indigenous Entrepreneurial Development Programme

Best Practices in Innovative Indigenous Productive Projects

Project for the Conservation of the Natural Patrimony of the Great Chaco

Indigenous and Afro-Latin American Scholarship Programme

Regional training programme on the Initiative for the Integration of South American Regional Infrastructure (IIRSA) methodology for the application of environmental and social evaluation

Conservation and Social Usage of the Chapaq Ñan Natural and Cultural Heritage

Monitoring and appraisal system: Legal Framework and Public Policies for Indigenous Peoples

Land Privatization, Titling and Indigenous Peoples in Latin America

Support for preparation of the Programme of Standards Protection for Indigenous Peoples in Voluntary Isolation

Strategic Mapping and Sociocultural Assessment to Evaluate the Impacts and Opportunities for Indigenous Peoples and the IIRSA Project Portfolio

Implementation of the Enlace Social Inclusion Trust Fund Communication Strategy

Indigenous Peoples and Public and Private Economic Governance in Latin America

Guidelines for the Implementation of the Operational Policy on Indigenous Peoples and the Strategy for Indigenous Development

Support for Indigenous Entrepreneurial Development

Conservation and Sustainable Use of Biodiversity of Vegetable Medicine in the Kallaway Communities of Bautista Saavedra Province

Toolkit to Reduce Maternal and Infant Mortality among Rural Indigenous Populations

Policy Note for the Country Strategy in Paraguay. MECOVI for indigenous peoples

Policy Note for Indigenous Peoples and Afro-descendants in Nicaragua

Policy Note on Indigenous Peoples in Belize

IX. Focal point on indigenous peoples

65. The Bank's Gender and Diversity Unit is responsible for the promotion and coordination of issues related to, inter alia, indigenous peoples.

X. IDB capacity-building on indigenous issues

66. Over the past year, the Bank has developed guides and tools for the implementation of its policies and strategies, particularly the OP-765 and the Strategy for Indigenous Development. At the same time, as a mechanism for awareness-raising and knowledge-sharing, the Bank holds conferences in order to disseminate to its specialists the results of studies and technical cooperation activities on various specific issues, including those related to indigenous peoples.

67. Training events for IDB specialists on the use in the project cycle of operational guides and tools for policy implementation that are specifically related to safeguards issues are currently being planned. This training will also focus on such issues as informed consultation and community participation. Owing to the nature of the issue and to the dynamics of the Bank's operations, training on issues related to indigenous peoples will be a systematic task.

XI. IDB actions related to the goals and targets of the Programme of Action for the Second International Decade of the World's Indigenous People

68. The Bank has not yet developed any activities within the specific framework of the Programme of Action for the Second International Decade of the World's Indigenous People. However, the activities currently under implementation or be incorporated into planning in the short term are consistent with the goals of the Second Decade, which refer to the strengthening of international cooperation for the benefit of indigenous people in such areas as culture, education, health, the environment and social and economic development. In this context, the entry into force of OP-765, in August 2006, marks an important step in the Bank's efforts to safeguard the rights and support the development with identity of indigenous peoples within the framework of this Second International Decade.

XII. Information/suggestions regarding the special theme for the next session of the Permanent Forum's: "Climate change, bio-cultural diversity and livelihoods: the stewardship role of indigenous peoples and new challenges"

69. The Bank has developed a methodology for cultural land-use research and planning. One of the central components of this methodology is indigenous peoples' knowledge about the management of their territories and resources. As a key counterweight to climate change, the suggestion for the Permanent Forum's next session is that progress could be made on analysing the role of this knowledge.

XIII. IDB events related to indigenous peoples to be held in 2008 and 2009

70. The events to be held over the next two years are related to the Bank's operations and, for the most part, are designed for an internal audience. These include:

In 2008:

(a) Presentation of the results of a diagnostic study on indigenous peoples' enterprises in Panama;

(b) Publication of the results of a case study on intercultural health;

(c) Presentation of the results of the study on land titling and indigenous peoples in Latin America;

(d) Presentation of the impact of technical cooperation on the design of tools to reduce maternal mortality among indigenous women in Latin America;

(e) A training workshop on operational guidelines for the implementation of OP-765;

(f) A seminar on indigenous entrepreneurship and presentation of a series of indigenous entrepreneurship projects in nine countries;

(g) Presentation of nine case studies on the economic governance of indigenous peoples and publication of the results.

In 2009:

(h) An international event on the economy and indigenous culture within the framework of the fiftieth anniversary of the Bank's establishment;

(i) A workshop on experience with ethno-engineering (the cultural adaptation of infrastructure designs) in Honduras, Ecuador and Chile;

(j) Presentation of the monitoring system for enforcement of indigenous legislation under a pilot project to be conducted in three countries; and

(k) Incorporation of an Indigenous Advisory Council.